

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 06527 302248Z

70

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 SCI-06 NSF-04 L-03 CEQ-02 EPA-04

INT-08 COME-00 SMI-01 EB-11 RSC-01 RSR-01 /060 W

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R 302209Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 701

UNCLAS CARACAS 6527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN TBIO HPM XG XE ED XA

SUBJ: MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION ACT OF 1972, INFORMATION STATUS
OF MARINE MAMMALS.

REF: STATE 114904

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (OFFICES OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE) AND VENEZUELAN SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES INDICATE THAT STATISTICAL INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ON MARINE MAMMALS IN VENEZUELA. MINISTRY STATED THAT THREE SPECIES OF THOSE LISTED REFTEL -- "LA TONINA DE ALPALUSE" OF DOLPHIN FAMILY, "NUTRIA CONTINENTAL" FRESH-WATER OTTER) AND THE MANATI (SEA COW) ARE FOUND IN FRESH WATERS OF VENEZUELA. NUMBERS OF EACH OF THESE SPECIES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY REDUCED BY HUNTING IN THE PAST; SINCE NONE OF THESE SPECIES IS NOW FOUND IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO MAKE HUNTING COMMERCIALY PROFITABLE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE SPECIES WILL STABILIZE AT SOMEWHERE NEAR THEIR CURRENT NUMBER. EACH OF THESE THREE SPECIES IS FOUND PRIMARILY IN RIVERS OF EASTERN AND SOUTH-CENTRAL VENEZUELA.

2. FUNDACION LA SALLE, PRIVATE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OPERATING OUT OF MARGARITA WHICH HAS CONDUCTED COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES ON MARINE SPECIES IN EASTERN VENEZUELAN WATERS, INDICATES THAT NONE OF MARINE MAMMALS MENTIONED REFTEL HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED DURING ITS INVESTIGATIONS.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA06527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973075/aaaaadjl.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 114904
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE MAMMALS PROTECTION ACT OF 1972, INFORMATION STATUS OF MARINE MAMMALS.
TAGS: SGEN, TBIO, XG, XE, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005